# AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC; AGAINST THE GROWING EVIL OF *Univerſal Regiſter-Offices*;

Otherwiſe called

Agency and Intelligence OFFICES

For Maſters and Servants; the Loan of Money; and Sale of Eſtates; *&c. &c.*

In which the various Frauds and Impoſitions generally practiſed by the Proprietors of theſe OFFICES are clearly and impartially expoſed to Public View.

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By *PHILANTHROPOS.*

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*LONDON:*

Printed for the AUTHOR, and Sold by M. COOPER at the *Globe* in *Paternoſter-Row.* 1757.

[ Price Six Pence. ]

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## TO THE
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### AGAINST THE
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### OF
# Universal Register-Offices;
### Otherwise called
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### For Masters and Servants; the Loan of Money; and Sale of Effects; &c. &c.

In which the various Frauds and Imperfections generally practiced by the Proprietors of such Offices are clearly and impartially exposed to Public View.

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By PHILANTHROPOS.

BRITISH MUSEUM

[ Price Six Pence. ]

# THE PREFACE.

THIS little Piece is not deſigned for the tender Eye of the curious Critic, nor offered to the Public as the Production of a fine Genius: Truly conſcious of his Incapacity to addreſs Mankind with Elegance of Diction and Propriety of Sentiment, the Author barely recites Facts, which in his humble Opinion may prove uſeful to Perſons reſiding in this Metropolis, and reſcue their Purſes from diſguiſed Sharpers, who under the ſpecious Pretence of providing for the various Wants of Mankind, and letting no Talent lie uſeleſs, impoſe on your Underſtanding, lay the Foundation of domeſtic Diſturbances, and in ſhort make your Houſes Dens of Thieves, by making your menial Servants, the Tools and Inſtruments of their miſchievous Practices.

IF a plain Narrative of the Impoſitions and Frauds, which have been practiſed on ſe-

*unhappy Sufferers, who have been the Dupes of their mean and mercenary Artifices, ſhould prove of Service to prevent any one Perſon from ſpending his Time and Money in an idle Purſuit of Employment from* Regiſter-Offices, *the Author's End is in a great Meaſure anſwered; and all that he has further to hope from the Public is, that a kind Reception of his weak Endeavours to deſtroy theſe modern* Hydra's *may enable him to defray the Expence of this Publication, and prevent others from falling Sacrifices to theſe infernal Vultures.*

# AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

THAT there is no general Rule without Exception, and that the beſt Inſtitutions are liable to Corruption, are eſtabliſhed Maxims. From which that I may not deviate, I muſt here declare before I proceed any farther, that I look upon the Inſtitution of a *Regiſter-Office*, as firſt founded by *John Fielding*, Eſq; and Co. to be capable of anſwering very good and valuable Purpoſes; and I believe, that at the Time of its firſt Eſtabliſhment, and ſome Time after the Public were greatly indebted to Mr. *Fielding* and Co. for ſtriking out and adhering to a Plan which deſerved the higheſt Encouragement; as it was calculated to bring the real Principals together; and to compleat the various Bargains mentioned in their Advertiſements, without

Fraud,

Fraud, Equivocation or Delay. How far they have deviated ſince, is not my Buſineſs to determine; I intend not particular Encomiums, nor particular Invectives; I would only endeavour to give a juſt Reward to Merit, and diſtinguiſh the ingenious Founders of a uſeful and valuable Undertaking, from the ignorant and impudent Corrupters of ſo noble a Plan. I am a Stranger to all the Parties concerned in Mr. *Fielding*'s Office, and all that I can ſay of their preſent Adminiſtration is, that I do not hear ſuch general Complaints againſt them, as others: And I ſhould imagine, that an Office of this Kind, under the Inſpection of a Gentleman, who has eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf in a higher Station, cannot but anſwer its firſt Deſign, and ſhould adviſe all Perſons to apply to thoſe of known *Property* and *Integrity*, if they are really in Want of the Aſſiſtance of a *Regiſter-Office*.

THE Method I ſhall purſue in the following Sheets, will be to prove, that the Regiſter-Office Keepers in general, do not fulfil their Engagements to the Public in any one Particular that they advertiſe: And for this Purpoſe I ſhall diſtinguiſh the ſeveral Articles they pretend to deal in, and make it appear, that they are generally Bankrupts in all, at the very Time they ſo profuſely offer them to the Public.

AND firſt be pleaſed to obſerve, that the general Title of theſe Offices runs thus: *Carried on by a Society of Gentlemen of Character and Fortune*; but behold on Enquiry the Mountain brings forth a Mouſe, the mighty Gentlemen Proprietors ſink into diſcarded Clerks of other Offices, and are as intire Strangers to Gentility and Property, as to Honeſty and Humanity.

To prove this I muſt proceed to a ſecond Head, which is, *The Loan of Money*, ſome ſay on perſonal, ſome on real Security, and ſome on undeniable Security; however all would lend Money: But the Misfortune is, they have none to lend, or if they muſter up a ſmall Sum it is offered on ſuch Terms, as make the timorous Borrower ſtand aghaſt, and for a while doubt, whether he is contracting with a Man or a Devil. Here I cannot omit a Letter I received not long ſince from a diſtreſſed Gentleman, who formerly revelled in the Sunſhine of Proſperity, and by an unbridled Purſuit of ſenſual Gratifications, reduced himſelf from a State of Affluence and Splendor, to extreme Poverty and Diſtreſs: From theſe dreadful Circumſtances the kind Diſpoſer of all human Events has now relieved him. If his Letter, expoſing the various ill Treatment he met with, from theſe Money-lenders, be not ſo entertaining as I could wiſh, I hope its Uſefulneſs will in ſome Degree apologize for inſerting it here:

SIR,

"ON my Return from the Country, I acci-
" dentally met with Mr. * * *, to whom
" I am indebted for the Pleaſure of my firſt Ac-
" quaintance with you; when the uſual Enquiry
" concerning your Health was anſwered, he in-
" formed me, that you intended publiſhing a
" ſmall Piece, to expoſe the Chicanery and
" Frauds of *Regiſter-Offices*; and deſired I
" would give you ſome little Aſſiſtance, by fur-
" niſhing you with an Anecdote relative to my-
" ſelf. As I am ever ready to do all the little
" Service in my Power to my Friends and the Pub-
" lic

" bic in general, I here ſend you an Account of
" the Uſage I met with; and on the Word of an
" honeſt Man, I declare that in this Relation:

" *I nothing extenuate, nor ſet down ought in*
" *Malice.* SHAKESP.

" IT is now two Years ſince by various Miſ-
" fortunes, I was reduced to ſo low an Ebb, as
" to be obliged to apply for the Loan of One
" Hundred Pounds, (to the *Regiſter Offices*) after
" having in vain applied to my Friends who all
" knew the Security I offered was a good one.
" The firſt Office I applied to, had taken ſome
" Pains to diſperſe a pompous Bill of Fare all
" over the Town. Meeting with one of theſe
" Publications, I was greatly elated at the Thoughts
" of having my Wants immediately ſupplied;
" and ſtepping home for the Writings of my only
" remaining Farm, I loſt no Time but imme-
" diately repaired to this little Bank, as I called it,
" in the Warmth of my Imagination.—Here I
" found an *Iriſh* Clerk, who with his little Saga-
" city, judged however, that I did not want a
" Cook's Place, and therefore made this Reply
" to my Enquiry after his Maſter: Sir, if you
" will ſit down in the Office for private Buſineſs
" backwards, my Maſter ſhall be here preſently.
" A few Minutes produced the Maſter; (and
" I afterwards learnt, that he and a Hackney
" Coachman, whom he had artfully introduced
" to the Service of a Gentleman of Fortune,
" were regaling themſelves with *Roman Purl*,) I
" told him, I had Occaſion for a Sum of Mo-
" ney, that by his Advertiſements I found he ad-
" vanced Money on real Security; and that ſuch
" was mine, which I now offered him. His An-

" ſwer

" ſwer was, that it was his Cuſtom never to re-
" ſolve Queſtions till People had complied with
" the Rules of his Office; and that I muſt pay
" him *Two Shillings and Six-Pence* (as it was a
" Money-Affair) to regiſter the *Particulars* in
" his Book. I thought this a glaring Impoſition
" to take a Fee, before the Remedy was preſcri-
" bed for: However I complied, and then he
" proceeded to enlarge on the great Scarcity of
" Money in the Nation, the Number of Bor-
" rowers, the Danger of bad Title-Deeds, and
" the great Difficulty of getting Money in again
" when once it was lent out; and at length told
" me, that betwixt Twelve and One the next
" Morning, I ſhould meet his *Principal* who al-
" ways did theſe Things for him, and he hoped
" there would be no Difficulty. Greatly ſurprized
" at being referred to a ſecond Perſon, I told
" him, that I imagined by his Advertiſement he
" had the Money ready himſelf, and would ad-
" vance it on reaſonable Terms, provided the
" Security was good. Oh! No, dear Sir, he
" replied, we always have Gentlemen of For-
" tune ready to take theſe Things, who keep
" their Money out of the Funds for the valuable
" Purpoſes of ſupplying diſtreſſed Gentlemen;
" for my own Part I never keep ſo much Caſh
" by me. Thus with the Addition of a few
" Congees ended our Conference for this Day.

" At the appointed Hour the next Day I
" repaired to the Office, and after waiting ſome
" Time, a formidable old Gentleman was intro-
" duced to me, whom I ſoon found to be the
" *Perſon* who was to lend me the Money, if we
" could agree. Here, if you can, form to your-
" ſelf the Idea of a Man more wretched in *Ap-*



" *pearance*,

" *pearance* than *Shakeſpear's* Apothecary in *Romeo*
" and *Juliet*, you will have a true Picture of this
" Miſer; for though Fortune had beſtowed on
" him remarkable Opulence, the Sordidneſs of his
" Temper would not permit him to enjoy it, or
" even to beſtow decent *Cloathing* on his mi-
" ſerable Body. Very little Ceremony ſerved to
" introduce us to the main Point, for he was as
" cautious how he ſpent his Time, as his Money.
" I unluckily told him, that I was under a real
" Neceſſity of borrowing the Money immediately
" to ſatisfy the Demands of importunate Credi-
" tors. This was a ſufficient Handle for him to
" proceed by telling me, that Affairs of this
" Kind were not to be concluded in a Hurry;
" and that his Lawyer would peruſe the Wri-
" tings and give me an Anſwer in a few Days,
" if he approved the Security. This opened the
" Road to a new Delay, and enraged me to
" ſuch a Degree, that I inſiſted on an immediate
" Anſwer, and that I would ſend for Gentlemen
" of known Reputation, to ſatisfy him, that I
" was in actual Poſſeſſion of the Security I offer-
" ed him. Upon this, he pauſed a little, and
" told me, that my Appearance and Behaviour
" convinced him that I was a Gentleman; and
" when he had ſuch to deal with, he did not
" care if he did go a little out of his Way and
" finiſh the Buſineſs in the Afternoon, provided I
" would conſent to make him a *proper Preſent*
" ſuitable to the Loan of ſo large a Sum, and
" agree to pay it back in Six Months. I ſtarted
" at the Word *Preſent*, and replied, that my
" Deſign was to pay him lawful Intereſt for his
" Money, and as to a *Preſent*, I had given the
" *Proprietor* of the Office what he thought pro-
" per to demand; and therefore could not con-

" ceive what he meant. Sir, replied the old " Miſer, you ſay you want the Money, and ſo " do I, unleſs I can make it worth my while to " lend it out; when the Time is expired that " you are to have it for, it may perhaps be Six " Months longer, before I lend it again; and " therefore ſhall be indemnified for that Loſs by " the preſent Bargain, — and ſhall not take leſs " than Five Guineas. Theſe were his Words as " exactly as I can remember, and though I was " extremely ſhocked at the Propoſal, yet ſuch " were my Circumſtances at that Time, that I " gave my Conſent to comply with his exorbi- " tant Demand. The next Thing we had to " ſettle was drawing the Mortgage-Deeds, which " he abſolutely declared ſhould be at my Expence, " notwithſtanding this extraordinary Premium, " and inſiſted upon employing his own Attor- " ney, whom I found to be a Perſon entirely at " his Devotion, and in ſhort, that he had a " Drawback from all the Buſineſs he recom- " mended him to. To conclude my Narrative, " which I am afraid has been already too tedi- " ous, after keeping me a Month in Expectation " of finiſhing the Affair, and attempting to raiſe " the Premium by a Thouſand Falſities, ſuch as " ſaying, that the Thing had been *blown* upon, " that I had offered it to all the Offices in " Town; and ſuch Sort of Common Place Cant, " to inhance the Value of the Loan, I at length " was paid the Sum of Ninety-two Pounds, clear " of the ſeparate Deductions of the Lawyer and " Lender. To add to the Misfortune, when the " Term, for which the Money was advanced, " expired, it was not in my Power to pay either " Principal or Intereſt, I was obliged to ſubmit " to the Impoſition of a freſh Premium for con-

" tinuing the Loan; and by repeating the ſame
" Medicine, I was at length entirely cured by
" the Sale of my little Farm, which being ſo
" much incumbered, for a farther trifling Sum, be-
" came the Property of this friendly Miſer.

" THUS have I given you a ſhort Detail of
" the unhappy Conſequences of applying to *Re-*
" *giſter-Offices* for the Loan of Money, and I
" do aſſure you, it will afford me the higheſt
" Satisfaction to ſee this Letter appear in Print,
" even in its native Dreſs, rude as it is, for
" Truth wants no Ornament to recommend its
" Uſefulneſs to the Public.

" I am, *&c.*

*PROBUS.*

THIS Letter is only one, out of a Thouſand authentic Proofs, that can be given of the various Impoſitions under the Article of lending Money; and many who read this little Piece, I am afraid have evinced the Truth of this Aſſertion by fatal Experience. But the Evil does not ſtop here; for if it did, it might be objected, that whatever Advantage is made by the Lender, yet the Borrower by being ſupplied with the Money, is perhaps relieved from the greateſt Difficulties, and his End in borrowing in a great Meaſure anſwered; but how ſeldom even this is the Caſe, I appeal to the various Perſons, who have paid Half-Crowns, and Shillings, without receiving any other Satisfaction from the *Offices* they applied to, than a cool Anſwer, (after many Days tedious Expectation of Succeſs) that the Security was not good, the Funds were low, it was diſadvantageous to ſell out, a great deal of Money had lately been

put

put out by the Office, which would come in again in a ſhort Time, but made a Scarcity of Caſh at preſent, and it was better to wait until they could do it, for no one elſe would take ſuch Security. Theſe and ſuch Sort of prevaricating Anſwers are generally given, and the unhappy Wretch, in the mean Time, perhaps ſeized by the cruel Hands of a Bailiff, or tired out with Attendance on the Office, is obliged to let the *Half-Crown*, he could but badly ſpare, quietly ſink into the Pockets of theſe Gentlemen Proprietors of *Univerſal Regiſter Offices*.

SINCE this is the Treatment, my Countrymen, you muſt expect to meet with on this Head, how careful you ought to be, to diſcountenance all ſuch *Proceedings* by peremptorily inſiſting on having your Buſineſs diſpatched; and then, and not till then, you ought to pay: Conſider whoſe Intereſt it is chiefly to get the Buſineſs done; not your's, but the Officekeeper's, if you do not pay him beforehand: He it is, that is to have a Fee from you, another from the Lender, and perhaps a third, from the pettyfogging Attorney, who draws the Inſtrument, if he is not Lawyer enough to do it himſelf. Let not therefore the Fear of Diſappointment engage you to comply with this ſcandalous Cuſtom of paying barely for regiſtring an Article, neither if you can exiſt without it, let any Emergency whatever tempt you to give *exorbitant Premiums* for the Loan of Money, for whatever Difficulties you may avoid by the preſent Supply, a more certain, though perhaps not ſo ſudden a Deſtruction, will be the Conſequence of putting yourſelves in the Power of theſe public *Plunderers*. And what a Pity it is, that the Uſurers, who keep their Money by them,

them, merely to ſupply Perſons in diſtreſſed Circumſtances on the moſt unconſcionable Terms, ſhould by the Encouragement of theſe *Regiſter-Offices*, have an Opportunity of adding ſo largely to their ill-gotten Wealth, and find a better Account in their clandeſtine Proceedings, than in lending their Money at a moderate Intereſt to ſtrengthen the Reins of Government, and promote the Welfare of their Country.

I COME now to the Article, *Of Places under the Government*, &c. *to be ſold*, which we ſee frequently advertiſed from *Regiſter Offices*, in theſe or ſuch-like Terms, and which you generally find in their Hand-Bills :— A Place to be diſpoſed of for One Hundred Guineas, which brings in One Hundred Pounds *per Annum*.—A Public Office to be ſold, where nothing leſs than Gold is taken for any Buſineſs tranſacted.—An Old and Well-Accuſtomed Shop in the Grocery and Tea-Way, the Perſon having acquired a Fortune, is the Reaſon of quitting it.— A Genteel Publick Houſe to be let, no Brewer's nor Diſtiller's Houſe, fit for any new-married Couple who may ſoon get a very genteel Livelihood ; ſome Good-will is required. Thus are different Baits prepared for the different Ranks and Degrees of People ; and it is hard indeed upon the *Officekeeper*, if ſome out of ſo many are not greedily ſwallowed.

I HAVE the Happineſs to aſſure the *Public*, that moſt of the Advertiſements that have appeared within theſe Twelve Months paſt, have been carefully peruſed, and an impartial Enquiry made after ſeveral of the *Places* to be diſpoſed of, (which are not confined to *Private Life*, but comprehend *Church* and *State*) by a public-ſpirited

rited Gentleman who has been at the Expence of applying to the *Offices* from whence they were advertiſed, and was ſo kind as to furniſh me with the Remarks I offer to the *Public* on the expoſing to Sale public Offices and Employments. The Reſult of an Inquiry after the Place which brought in One Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, and might be purchaſed for One Hundred Guineas, was, that the Proprietor of the Office took One Shilling for anſwering to the Queſtion, What is the Place? notwithſtanding it was ſo publicly advertiſed; and then told the Gentleman, that it was a Place in the Cuſtom-houſe, and that he muſt apply for Particulars to Mr. —— at a certain Coffee-houſe. This the Gentleman patiently ſubmitted to; but when he came there, on enquiring for the *Perſon* he was directed to, he was told at the Bar, that he was juſt gone, and the *Place* ſold: And notwithſtanding the moſt diligent Enquiry, the Gentleman could never find out either, who bought, or who ſold the *Place*. On his Return to the *Regiſter-Office*, he naturally demanded his Shilling again; but was told it was only the cuſtomary Fee of the Office, that it was a Pity he had not applied earlier; (it was then only Three o'Clock on the very Day the Advertiſement appeared in the Paper) and if the *Place* had not been gone, perhaps it would not have ſuited the Gentleman's Talents as Accounts were requiſite; and if that had been the Caſe, it was no Fault of the Office: Thus intimating, that let what would be the Succeſs attending the Enquiry, the Officekeeper was intitled to One Shilling, and as he was very private and cautious, while he was converſing with this Gentleman, it is highly probable that eight or ten more might have paid for the ſame Enquiry; and as probable, that

there

there was no *Place* in the Cuſtoms, or elſewhere, at the Bottom of all this Artifice to get Money.— The Sum of Money they defraud you of, is ſo ſmall, that they think it is not worth any Perſon's while to proſecute them for it; and in Fact the Remedy would be worſe than the Diſeaſe, in Point of Expence, and as to the Service done to the *Public* by expoſing ſuch Impoſitions, the Author humbly hopes the printing this rough little Piece, will anſwer that valuable End as well as a Proſecution.

THE next Enquiry was after, *the Public Office to be* ſold, *where nothing but Gold is taken for any Buſineſs tranſacted.* This ſpecious Appearance of a genteel Employment for any young Perſon who had a Mind to buy it, will not take up much of the Reader's Time, for it proved to be no leſs than a *Regiſter Office*, where I dare ſay no Gold had ever been taken; and in Half an Hour after this Enquiry was made, they actually took a Shilling for a Cook-maid's Place, and ſeemed very thankful. The Method of proceeding in this Affair was thus: The Advertiſement directed you to enquire at a certain Perſon's Lodgings, the Perſon was known (to the Gentleman I formerly mentioned,) to be an Officekeeper, when he came to his Lodgings, he very frankly told him it was a *Regiſter Office*; but that as their chief Buſineſs was buying and ſelling Eſtates they never took leſs than Gold, he mentioned the Proprietors; and the Enquirer, without ſtaying to hear his Terms of purchaſing, haſtily took Leave, having conceived a mortal Averſion to the very Name of a *Regiſter Office*, the very ſame Hour he learnt that this Man was a *Partner* with the others whom he had mentioned;

tioned, and determined to overthrow the bold Aſſertion in the Advertiſement, (*of their taking nothing but Gold*;) he immediately ſent a Servant to regiſter a *Cookmaid's Place*, and, as I mentioned before, they thankfully entered it for *One Shilling*. Various are the Advertiſements which by referring to the *Public Papers* you will find drawn up with the greateſt Artifice, and offering the moſt lucrative Advantages for ſmall Sums, which on Enquiry proved to be *Regiſter Offices*: And it is a Cuſtom with theſe Men, to ſtay in an Office about one Year, or Six Months; and as ſoon as they begin to be upbraided by their Employers for repeated Diſappointments, in the various Articles regiſtered with them, they move off to another Quarter of the Town; but firſt advertiſe the Office they intend to leave as an *Old Eſtabliſhed One*, capable of great Improvements to be ſold for *Sixty Guineas*, or ſometimes for *Thirty*: This tempts ſome young Perſon who has a little Money, and leſs Experience, to purchaſe it. As a Proof of the Profits ariſing in the Office, he is ſhewn a Book wherein every Shilling received is carefully entered, and here and there a falſe Entry is made to augment the weekly Sum. Thus the young Perſon put in Poſſeſſion of his new Employment, thinks himſelf quietly ſettled in a genteel Subſiſtence, but his Eyes are ſoon open to his Diſappointment, for a Crowd of Claimants appear, who have regiſtered for Places, *&c.* in the Office, before his Commencement, and have never been provided for; the new Proprietor juſtly denies their Claims, and the enraged Sufferers thus turned off without Redreſs, are ſo far from recommending others, that they do all in their Power to prevent any farther Applications to that Office; and the deluded

*Purchaſer* finding he cannot gain a Livelihood by his new Employment, is obliged to have Recourſe to the ſame Method of diſpoſing of it again, as his *Predeceſſor* made uſe of. Thus a continual Succeſſion of Impoſitions are carried on until the Office is totally ſhut up.

LET this therefore be a Caution to the *Public*, never to be led away by the ſpecious Appearance of theſe Advertiſements, for depend on it, no Employments, either public or private, are at this Time to be bought under a very high Price, where the Certainty of the Salary is to be depended on; and very ſeldom yield more than eight *per Cent. per Annum* for your Money. If therefore a Place of *Eighty Pounds* a Year, coſts One Thouſand Pounds; and that too, where Attendance is required, how abſurd is it to encourage theſe Men, by running after ſuch Advertiſements as this, which was lately in the *Daily Advertiſer*:—"Wanted a Partner in a Buſineſs "producing Five Pounds weekly, all the Year "round, which is Two Hundred and Sixty "Pounds a Year; the Premium required is "Seventy Guineas." Now obſerve, the Half of the Profits of this Place being One Hundred and Thirty Pounds you are to be intitled to for Seventy Guineas; can any Man in his Senſes believe, a Perſon will ſell for Seventy Guineas, that, which according to the Calculation I have juſt made, is worth One Thouſand Six Hundred Pounds; and you will obſerve, they as confidently affirm the Certainty of the Salary, as if it was a Freehold Inheritance, or parliamentary Security? No, my Countrymen, there is no ſuch Generoſity in the common Dealings of Men, on the contrary we are too apt to take the utmoſt

 Farthing,

Farthing for any Thing truly valuable, and even then to give it up with Reluctance. Let me, therefore, no longer hear of Time and Money miſpent in theſe fruitleſs Purſuits: Let the *Printer* of the Paper theſe Advertiſements are inſerted in, be the only Gainer by them, as his will be a certain Advantage, and no Deluſion; and do you ſeriouſly endeavour to gain that comfortable Subſiſtence by the Trades you are bred to, which theſe *Officekeepers* falſely pretend to procure you for ſuch ſmall Sums of Money.

ANOTHER Branch of Buſineſs, comprized under the general Head, *Of Selling Places and Employments*; is, the Diſpoſal of *Shops*, and *Public Houſes*, which are always ſaid to be well accuſtomed; to be free from all Incumbrances; and Good-will required, and generally too, the Perſon, who quits them, is ſaid to have acquired a genteel Fortune, or is gone into another Way of Buſineſs. By theſe and the like *Enhancements* of the Value of their *Public Houſes* and *Shops*, People are apt to think they are really valuable; and they generally lay this Plan ſo well, that they baffle moſt Enquiries to the contrary: But when the Good-will is paid, inſtead of a regular eſtabliſhed Trade, it is often found that the true Cauſe of Sale, is the Inſolvency of the laſt *Poſſeſſor*, a Want of Cuſtomers, or the Badneſs of the Situation; and in any of theſe Caſes, certainly there can be no Reaſon to demand Good-will: But beſides this, the *Officekeeper* takes ſometimes Four or Five Guineas of each Party, barely for adjuſting Matters, which required no Agent at all, (if properly managed) and has the Impudence to tell this, to an Enquirer after any of theſe Houſes, even tho' he has paid *One Shilling* the

uſual Fee, and though he has the public Advertiſement in his Hand, wherein no ſuch Terms are mentioned. How eaſily might this Kind of Traffic be prevented, if People would but conſider, that a *News Paper* is the beſt Channel of Publication; and that the Party wanting to ſell, by therein appointing a Place where to be met with, may immediately treat with the Perſons wanting to purchaſe; and thereby ſave the needleſs Expence of ignorant and exorbitant Agents, to whom there is no Occaſion to apply, unleſs to make what is bad appear good, if it is a rotten Commodity you offer to Sale, and expect the ſame Price for it as if it was really ſound, then indeed it will be neceſſary to apply to theſe Retailers of falſe Wares, who can give it a proper Colouring, and impoſe it on Mankind, as a Thing of intrinſic Worth. But to you who are Purchaſers I recommend this Obſervation, that according to the preſent State of Trade in general very few *Shops*, and fewer *Public Houſes* merit a Sum of Money for Good-will, and for the moſt part the beſt Settlements of this Kind are procured without any, eſpecially where the Seller has an Incumbrance of Fixtures, and ſometimes Furniture, to get rid of to the Purchaſer. Therefore act with the utmoſt Caution; be not deceived with falſe Appearances, nor induced by any Means, to part with a Sum of Money in Fees to *Officekeepers*, and Premiums: Which Money will be of far more Service to you, in the Buſineſs you ſet up.

I SHALL now enter on the laſt (though not the leaſt) Article in this Narrative of Frauds and Impoſitions, *viz. The Regiſtering of Servants of all Sorts, and of Maſters and Miſtreſſes wanting them.*

*them.* Under this Head may be comprized the Foundation of almoſt all domeſtic Diſturbances, ariſing from the Impudence, Slothfulneſs, and Negligence of common Servants; and to the Number of *Offices*, whoſe Buſineſs is chiefly confined to this Branch, may juſtly be attributed the extreme Difficulty of hiring good Servants on reaſonable Terms. The firſt Principle of theſe *Officekeepers* muſt be to eat; and whoever conſiders the vaſt Number of them, and how few Servants (that are truly valuable) apply to them, muſt immediately infer, that if they were to be ſcrupulouſly exact in the Characters of the Servants they recommend, they muſt infallibly ſtarve; for even as it is, very few gain a Competence adequate to the mean Drudgery they ſubmit to, in impoſing upon Mankind. I am intimately acquainted with ſeveral good Families, who will never hire a Servant from a *Regiſter Office*, and it is as certain that a truly valuable Servant (by which I mean an honeſt, ſober, induſtrious Perſon with a fair Character) will never apply to an Office; they can have no Occaſion to apply to them, for the very Tradeſmen who ſerved the Families they live in, will be ready to oblige another Family by recommending a good Servant; and when their leaving a Family is only occaſioned by any accidental Change in the Situation or Circumſtance of that Family, they are certain of getting into another, without the Aſſiſtance of theſe *Gentlemen.* The Number of Maſters and Miſtreſſes who are in Want of *good Servants* in every Capacity, is infinitely ſuperior to the Number of *good Servants* out of Place. Let us then, ſet theſe aſide, and take it for granted, that, (if they are in their Senſes) they will patiently wait for a good Place, from private Recommendation; and

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on the other Hand let us ſuppoſe, that, very few Maſters of Families apply to theſe *Offices* for Servants, who are People of Reputation and Character, (with whom only it is proper a good Servant ſhould live) and then alas! what a Remnant is left of *Maſters*, and *Servants*, who reſort to theſe Offices; they muſt chiefly conſiſt on the one Hand of *Publicans*, *Vintners*, *Bawds*, *Bailiffs*, &c. and on the other of Servants, who have been diſcarded, for Lewdneſs, Saucineſs, Lazineſs, or Diſhoneſty, or perhaps have lived in ſuch public Places, that they are ſenſible no ſober Family will take them from; and therefore they are obliged to apply to the *Officekeeper*, who for his Fee, contrives to ſink the laſt Place, and by ſome Means or other gives them a new Character, and ſends them into private Families, where they generally behave ill, and are ſoon turned out.—Thus the *Gentlemen Proprietors* have their Cuſtomer again; the Place is vacant for another Perſon, and the Servant they recommended has gained ſo much Knowledge of the Family, as to acquaint them what Sort of Method will be the moſt likely to ſucceed in ſending another. As to the *Publicans*, &c. they muſt have Servants; and were the Generality of theſe *Offices* ſet apart for their Uſe, it would be very happy; but this is not the Caſe, there can be no Occaſion for a *Regiſter Office* in almoſt every Street in *London*, barely to ſupply ſuch Sort of People with Servants; and I am afraid that many poor Girls are ignorantly ſent for out of the Country, by their Town Acquaintance, and taken from a Life of Innocence and Induſtry, under the falſe Pretence of *bettering* themſelves, (to uſe their own Terms) and then turned over to theſe *Offices* for a Place; who generally ſend ſuch to *Public Houſes*, under

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the Pretence of their being clumſy and not acquainted with the Method of Cooking, *&c.* requiſite in a private Family in *London*. Thus the Country Girl, (who cannot afford to be out of Place) is ſent to ſome fat Landlady to be qualified for a private Place, and by this Means is, perhaps, ever after unable to eſtabliſh a Character, fit to recommend her to a ſober private Family. It fares the ſame with the Country Lad; he is enticed up to Town, in hopes of making his Fortune, *as they call it*; and is likewiſe turned over to the *Regiſter Office*, where he is told, that as he cannot ſhave, dreſs Hair, *&c.* he is not qualified for a genteel Footman, and as to a Shop few Tradeſmen would care to be troubled with a Lad who did not know his Way about *London*, or perhaps has not had the *Small Pox*, the only Recourſe then for immediate Employment is, to be Drawer to an *Alehouſe*; but of theſe Sorts of Places there were not enough; and many were to be ſeen a few Months ſince wandering about the Streets, enquiring for Employment from Door to Door, while others of a leſs induſtrious Diſpoſition, took to bad Courſes, and became a public Nuſance, till that noble Plan was ſet on Foot, and generouſly encouraged by the *Public* (the *Marine Society*) which at once ſwept our Streets of theſe poor Creatures, and employed them in the moſt beneficial and laudable Manner. It is theſe innocent Country People of both Sexes that have been the Sufferers by the Increaſe of theſe Offices; and there being no Remedy for the Girls, anſwerable to a *Marine Society* for the Boys, it is to be feared, we ſhall now and then ſee them patroling the Streets, deprived of that Innocence and Eaſe, they enjoyed in their own Countries. I ſhall only add, that

nothing

nothing is ſo common at preſent, as for Servants to ſtay in their Places only Two or Three Months, and then either to give Warning, or by ill Uſage provoke their Miſtreſſes to turn them away; and thus to run from Place to Place, till they are ſettled in a Family that give extravagant Wages, and keep a deal of Company. When they leave a Place they do not like, they give Intelligence to the *Officekeeper*, who ſends Six or Seven to the ſame Place, who are to take leſs Wages than the fine Lady that is gone; and the Miſtreſs of the Family is ſurprized to ſee ſo many ſtrange Faces appear, as Candidates for her Place, when ſhe has made little or no Enquiry about a Servant, or is provided by Means of an Acquaintance. I have heard one of theſe *Officekeepers* tell one of his beſt Cuſtomers (that is, a Servant who is continually rambling from Place to Place, and conſequently paying moſt to the Office.) — Here is a Place, Madam, on my Books, but it is not good enough for you, the Wages are not high enough, and there is little Company kept, hardly any Vails, it will not do: I will get you a better. Certain I am, that ſeveral Servants are in Fee with Offices, and regularly give them Intelligence of vacant Places. This they can never do, without goſſipping, ſtaying of Errands, and entertaining Numbers of Viſitors, which muſt be prejudicial to the Intereſt of the Family they live in. And theſe Cabals, in ſome meaſure, make good my Aſſertion, in the *Preface*, that your Houſes are made Dens of Thieves to ſerve the Purpoſes of theſe *Offices*: For by Servants ſtaying out of Errands to give *Officekeepers* Intelligence of Places, you are robbed of your Time; and by their entertaining Viſiters at Home, of your Proviſions, *&c.* in your Abſence. It has lately been a Matter of public

public Complaint, that a vaſt Number of foreign Servants, even *French*, are employed in great Families: Can this be wondered at, when there are *Regiſter Offices* kept by Foreigners, who will naturally ſerve their own Countrymen firſt, and if they find it the Taſte of the Age, continually ſend for a freſh Supply.

BEFORE I conclude, let me obſerve, that I hope there are a few Exceptions (amongſt the vaſt Number of Offices) to theſe mean and mercenary Ways, and they muſt know, that this *Publication* is not meant, to hurt them in their lawful Buſineſs; but only to ſerve as a Guide to the *Public* to avoid thoſe dirty Offices which are now to be met with in almoſt every Street, wherein there is not ſo much as the Appearance of Property, nor can any ſatisfactory Character be given of the Owners. And as a farther Aſſiſtance to the *Public*, in diſtinguiſhing theſe People from the very few, who may merit Encouragement, let it be obſerved, that thoſe Men who really have it in their Power to tranſact your Buſineſs regularly, will make uſe of no Artifices, nor require any exorbitant Fees whatever; they will be found to inhabit the Houſes where their Offices are, and to have ſome other Dependance in Life. You will ſee ſome better Appearance of Property than a few dirty *Papers* ſtuck up in their Windows, and lying about in a miſerable *Office*, little better than a Dog-kennel. And you may judge of the *Proprietor*'s Merit by his Situation, and Appearance, as eaſily as you may of the *Proprietor* of a univerſal Medicine, if the Doctor's Medicine is not capable of defeating the various Diſorders of human Nature, (as he boldly aſſerts) you will generally find him deſtitute of almoſt every Neceſ-

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ſary of Life; but, if on the contrary, he has real Merit, in but a few Diſorders, you will ſee by his ſplendid Equipage and other Appendages of Opulence, what is the Worth of his Medicine; for Merit in their Branch will diſtinguiſh itſelf againſt all Oppoſition: So a *Regiſter Officekeeper* capable of ſupplying the various Wants of the *Public*, (according to his printed Bills) muſt infallibly procure a very *handſome* Livelihood, and every Thing about him, muſt make a *genteel* Appearance: But, as there are ſcarce any of theſe to be met with, may we not reaſonably conclude, that their *Places under the Government*, their *Commiſſions in the Army*, their *Advowſons and Curacies*, their *Stewardſhips*, their *Eſtates and Houſes* to be ſold, their *Life Annuities, and Servants Places*, are only to be met with in the printed Bills, and are but empty Shadows to amuſe the *Public*. That I may not ſeem too harſh, I here affix a genuine Copy of one of their Bills (the Original I have in my own Hands) wherein you will find a Confeſſion that ſome of them are Cheats: And what Sort of Perſon this Refiner of the Plans of his Fraternity is, I leave to the *Public*; and ſhall only add, that I have inſerted no material Fact in this Pamphlet but what can be proved, by undeniable Evidence to be true.

*Copy of a Hand Bill, of a late* Regiſter Office.

*That at the Authentickeſt Intelligencer for Brokers, Money Scriveners, and other Buſineſſes is done under St.* Dunſtan's *Church*, Fleet-ſtreet.

THE Perſon that keeps this Office is the Son of a late noted Builder of St. *James*'s Pariſh, and concerned in the Buildings of *Burlington* Gardens,

dens, *Bond-ſtreet*, *Hanover* and *Groveſnor-Squares*, *Saville-Row*, and for divers Nobility, *&c.* A Man that knows the World and Trade: A regular Perſon of Character and Family, and will go through with what he undertakes: He correſponds with Men of known Credit.—He will take no Fee from any one but with Intent to ſerve the Employer.—Not as many do, have a Set of Perſons hang about their Offices to make believe by them, and Papers ſtuck up at their Windows that they want this and that, and at the ſame Time have ſent no where, only for to amuſe and take in Perſons by taking their Money for nothing.—He, on or about *December* laſt, detected one of theſe Offices near *Soho*, who had adverтiſed for a Cook; a Cook went, gave him a Shilling for Regiſtering and was promis'd the Place the ſame Day. He, having a Suſpicion, went himſelf to aſk after the Place, and was told it was gone by Eight in the Morning, and his Friend Regiſter'd at Two in the Afternoon: Diſcovering the Fraud, he made him to return the Shilling back. So many poor Servants are defrauded of their Money by bad Practitioners. He keeps no ſham Runners, does his Buſineſs himſelf; and often Servants long out of Place can't afford a Shilling to Regiſter, he takes but Six-pence of Servants, Three-pence for Letter of Character, and one Shilling when hired. He delays no Buſineſs, but makes all the Diſpatch he can to ſave Trouble and Charges. Therefore thoſe Nobility, *&c.* that want Servants under ſeveral Denominations and Employments for Town or Country; and thoſe Servants that want Places, pleaſe to ſend a Line to him, Carriage paid, the Particulars of their Wants, the Employments and Wages given or wanted. He will return Anſwers with all poſſible Care, alſo the

Age,

Age, Character and Deſcription of the Parties ſo hired, and Servants ſhall be informed of the Family they are to be hired into. Any Nobleman, Gentleman, Merchant and Tradeſman that want Men or Materials, for Building, Selling, Buying, Letting, Borrowing, or Lending on Eſtates, or Wanting Furniture of all Sorts for their Houſes, He can ſupply them with the beſt of every Kind, and for every Branch. He deals with Men he can confide in. By ſo doing he hopes to pleaſe the Employer, the Maſter, the Servant, the Seller, the Buyer, the Borrower, the Lender. Thoſe that are diſpoſed to encourage the Poor and Induſtrious, and are willing to lend ſmall Sums from two Pounds and upwards paid Weekly, Monthly or other Ways, on good Security, and are inclinable, pleaſe to favour him with a Line, and they ſhall be writ to, or waited on by him. And what he takes in Hand will be carried on and done with Secrecy, Integrity, Juſtice and Honour in every thing you ſhall pleaſe to order

*Your moſt Humble and Obedient Servant to command,*

AUTHENTICK.

FINIS.